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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/616,737	07/09/2003	Thomas Jeffrey Enderwick	56507	2761
26327	7590	08/27/2004	EXAMINER	
THE LAW OFFICE OF KIRK D. WILLIAMS			ROBINSON, GRETA LEE	
1234 S. OGDEN ST.			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
DENVER, CO 80210			2177	

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/616,737	ENDERWICK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Greta L. Robinson	2177	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 July 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 5-7 and 17-29 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 8-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

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Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 6
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 1-4 and 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Garrecht et al. US Patent 6,567,812 B1 in view of Weschler US Patent 6,470,332 B1.

Regarding claim 1, Garrecht et al. teaches a method for storing a hierarchy of items in a search priority order [note: abstract], the method comprising:
identifying a plurality of element definitions and a plurality of groups of elements

[note: column 11 lines 7-60] and

storing representations of the plurality of element definitions and elements of the plurality of groups of elements in a prioritized searchable data structure [note: store results 650 and create tree-shaped hierarchy 660 figure 7; column 13 line 20 through column 15 line 38; also column 17 lines 25-29].

Regarding claims 2-4, wherein the plurality of element definitions includes Internet protocol security policies ... wherein the searchable data structure includes an associative memory [note: Garrecht et al. column 19 lines 35-57].

The limitations of claims 8-16 parallel method claims 1-4; therefore they are rejected under the same rationale.

Although Garrecht et al. teaches the invention substantially as cited they do not explicitly teach decreasing search priority such that representations of each particular element definition of the plurality of element definitions is stored after representations of a set of particular elements of the plurality of groups of elements associated with said particular element definition and before representations of lower priority elements. Wechler allows a query string to be defined and used as a filter to retrieve results [note: abstract, figure 3 and 4, column 8 line 28 through column 10 line 3]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the invention to have combined Wechler with Garrecht et al. because the ability to filter results would give faster and more accurate search results.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 5-7 and 17-29 are allowed.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art does not teach or fairly suggest adding a particular security association entry based on the received packet to said ordered associative memory entries, the particular security association entry corresponding to the particular Internet Protocol security policy, and the particular security association entry being added to said ordered associative memory entries prior to the particular associative memory entry location as cited in independent claims 5, 17, 23 and 26.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Wical US Patent 6,038,560

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greta L. Robinson whose telephone number is (703) 308-7565. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 9:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



GRETA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Greta Robinson
Primary Examiner
August 20, 2004